<u>REMARKS</u>

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present

application. Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 3 and 7 are amended, and claims 18-20 are

added. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to

reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 2-4, 6, 12, 13, and 15-17 would be allowable if

rewritten in independent form.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject

matter in this application. However, claims 2-4, 6, 12, 13, and 15-17 have not been rewritten

in independent form at this time, since it is believed that independent claim 1 and 11 are in

condition for allowance in view of the fact that Toyoda (U.S. 6.691,814) has been

disqualified as prior art by the submission of verified English translation of priority

documents JP 2003-043076 (filed on February 26, 2003), and JP 2003-049798 (filed on

February 26, 2003).

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's claim for foreign priority based on

JP 2003-043076 (filed on February 26, 2003), and JP 2003-049798 (filed on

February 26, 2003).

Information Disclosure Citation

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the reference supplied with the

Information Disclosure Statement filed May 18, 2005, and for providing the Applicant with

an initialed copy of the PTO form filed therewith.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims

7-11 from further consideration. By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 7 to

depend from independent claim 1, and has added claim 18 depending from independent

claim 11.

When independent claims 1 and 11 are found to be allowable, it is respectfully

requested that the Examiner consider withdrawn claims 7-11 and added claims 18-20, since

these claims are subcombinations of claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 3 because of an informality. In order to

overcome this objection, the Applicant has amended claim 3 in order to address the issue

pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are

respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated

by Toyoda (U.S. 6,691,814). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, the Applicant has attached Verified English translation of JP 2003-

043076 (filed on February 26, 2003), and JP 2003-049798 (filed on February 26, 2003), each

of which has a filing date prior to the Foreign Application Priority Date of March 19, 2003 of

Toyoda.

Therefore, Toyoda is disqualified as prior art in the rejection of the claims of the

present invention.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the

combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed

or made obvious by the prior art of record, including

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §

102(e) are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claim 3 has been amended, and dependent

claims 18-20 have been added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from

allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

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CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject

claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect

thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or

rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the

outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite

prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786)

at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future

replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time

fees.

Date: July 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

/James M: Slattery

Reg. No. 28,380

P. O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

JMS/CTT/tg